

19 November 1979, measuring 17.7 x 13.2 and 17.7 x 13.0 mm, were somewhat glossy white, speckled and spotted medium-brown over ashey-grey, thus showing more white ground than did any of the 18 eggs of *H. nigrorufa*.

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## *Lanius excubitor* "jebelmarrae"

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During 5 weeks of fieldwork in Sudan on and around Jebel Marra (20 June-28 July 1983) it was surprising not to meet with *Lanius excubitor jebelmarrae*, which was described by Lynes (1923:94) as an endemic subspecies from Jebel Marra (13°00'N, 24°25'E, 3024 m), Darfur, Sudan. Lynes found it common and resident in the Jebel Marra highlands and in March the birds were becoming sexually active. He collected 4 skins between November and 21 March (Lynes 1925:72) which differed from common "lowland Grey Shrikes" *L.e. leucopygos* in having a rather purer grey mantle and a rump grey like that of the mantle instead of white. Cave & Macdonald (1955) state that *jebelmarrae* is similar to *L.e. elegans* in having a grey rump, but is rather smaller.

Because of the absence of these birds during summer, the 4 skins in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.) were compared with other *L. excubitor* material from Africa. They were identical with *L.e. aucheri* from East Africa in colouration and state of moult. This means that *L.e. jebelmarrae* is synonymous with *L.e. aucheri* and that the birds found by Lynes were a wintering population on Jebel Marra. *L.e. aucheri* is a common winter visitor to northeast Sudan, especially the Red Sea Hills, from late September to March. The Jebel Marra birds would be part of this wintering population, showing here a preference for higher altitudes than the lowland subspecies *L.e. leucopygos*.

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